

# Statewide Family Support Center NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 • Issue 3

MARCH 2005



*Serving Kentucky's  
Families with Children  
Who are Deaf and Hard  
of Hearing*

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The SFSC is part of the Kentucky School for the Deaf's Outreach Services and the Statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness, components of the Kentucky Department of Education.

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859-239-7017 ext. 2503 (tty)  
[pbruce@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:pbruce@ksd.k12.ky.us)

Write to us at:  
Statewide Family Support Center  
PO Box 27  
Danville, KY 40423



## Newborn Hearing Screening Program

*Submitted by Stephanie Disney*

Every year over 50,000 newborns in Kentucky have a hearing screening before they leave the hospital. This screening, and many other services, is coordinated by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) office, a part of the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs. After each baby is screened, state law mandates that the results of the hearing test and some medical and family information be reported to the UNHS office. If an infant does not pass the newborn hearing screening or has a risk factor for later developing or changing hearing loss, the UNHS office mails information to the family about how and where to get follow-up testing.

Getting fast follow-up services is very important. The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing recommends that all babies who need follow-up, obtain services and early intervention before they are six months old. If families have questions about their child's hearing, or other hearing-related issues, they can contact the Louisville central office, the Eastern region office located in Lexington, or the Western region office located in

Hopkinsville. Every business day, audiologists are available to answer questions and direct families to services.

For more information, contact the Newborn Hearing Screening Program:  
Louisville central office 1-877-757-4327  
Eastern regional office 1-800-817-3874 ext. 225  
Western regional office 1-800-727-9903

### Editor's Note: **YOU CAN HELP!**

There are two flyers included with this issue of the Newsletter. **Please take these flyers to your local pediatrician's office or Health Department office.** Ask to have the flyers posted where families can see them. It is so very important for new moms and dads to know about having their baby's hearing checked. This will help get that message out there!

Additional copies of these posters can be made off of your own computer by typing in [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/edhi](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/edhi) as long as no alterations are made to it.



## STATEWIDE PARENT GROUP HAS A NEW NAME...

The statewide parent group that has been discussed in the past few SFSC newsletters has a new name: SUPPORT NETWORK FOR FAMILIES WITH DEAF and HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN. We'll call ourselves the Support Network for short.

They have developed a brochure about the group. It states that their purpose is "We are a group of families willing to share our experiences and learn from each other. We are accepting and encouraging of each family's choices for communication and educational placement. We seek to connect with professionals working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families to make them more aware of our needs and to become true partners in support of our children."

*Continued on Page 2*

## SUPPORT NETWORK FOR FAMILIES...

(continued from Page 1)

The group is currently developing their contact list, creating an organization structure, forming 'local' chapters, seeking more families who wish to be involved, and connecting with professionals who support family choice and respect the knowledge families have about their children.

You are encouraged to contact any of these people for more information:

Sarah – 502-599-5513 (Louisville area)

[wenharas@insightbb.com](mailto:wenharas@insightbb.com)

Dana – 859-854-3030 (Danville area)

[mamarouse@yahoo.com](mailto:mamarouse@yahoo.com)

Heidi – 270-925-2560 (Owensboro area)

[heidigas@aol.com](mailto:heidigas@aol.com)

Cindy – 606-875-3295 (Somerset area)

[tlmbfreer@aol.com](mailto:tlmbfreer@aol.com)



## KY COMMISSION on the DEAF/HARD OF HEARING

### POSITION OF PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

The current Parent Representative term will expire on June 30, 2005. Applicants must be a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Applicants may be deaf, hard of hearing or hearing. The Parent Representative serves a three-year term, which will begin July 1, 2005. The KCDHH is seeking creative individuals who will be involved in an exciting phase of change within state government.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact the KCDHH for an application. Please submit applications on or before March 31, 2005 to the following address:

Bobbie Beth Scoggins

KCDHH

632 Versailles Road

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

502.573.2604



## Welcome to the Literacy Corner!

submitted by Heidi Givens

We all know that the reading and writing achievement of deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHOH) children is greatly different than that of hearing children. To figure out why this is so, first we must look at how hearing children learn to read and write.

English literacy is based on sound. Hearing children learn to read by "sounding out" words. Once they sound it out, they recognize that word as one they have heard before - as part of their "inner word bank". They also have a large "mental filing cabinet of knowledge and experiences" to pull from when trying to comprehend something just read. When writing, hearing children think of how the word sounds then write what letters they know that match the sounds.

If reading and writing is based so much on sound, how does this affect D/HH children? It all depends on the hearing loss, what that child has in his "inner word bank", and what concepts are in his "mental filing cabinet of knowledge and experiences". One must look at all these factors to determine how this D/HH child will learn to read and write.

Here is an important tip for increasing your child's literacy: fill your child's "inner word bank" and "mental filing cabinet of knowledge and experiences". The more words and concepts they have, the more successful they will be with literacy. How can you do this? Communicate with your child about EVERYTHING. Label items around the house in writing. Identify restaurants, stores, and buildings around your community. Take pictures of places and people in your town. Before going somewhere, show your child the picture of where you are going.

Each month I will share information about literacy for our D/HH children. I will also give you tips on how to help your children improve their literacy. A bonus to this article is answering parents' questions. Email your question to me and I will answer it in an upcoming issue. If you do not have email, please mail or call in your question to SFSC and they will send it to me.

Heidi Givens is a teacher of the deaf and hard-of-hearing in Owensboro, KY. She has been teaching for ten years. For four years, she was the reading specialist for deaf and hard-of-hearing programs in Miami, FL. She can be reached at [heidigas@aol.com](mailto:heidigas@aol.com).



## Statewide Family Support Center News

The staff of the SFSC (Cathy Howle and Pat Bruce) have been busy getting the word out about our new program. We have met with people from the Newborn Hearing Screening program, First Steps staff, and with several parent groups around the state. We continue to pass out the Needs Assessment form as well as the Family Contact Information form. The responses to these two forms are being put into our database. We will plan our parent meetings, workshops, and trainings for next year based on the responses and will include these families in our mailing list and email distribution list. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET MAILED IN YOUR FORMS, PLEASE DO SO... it will really help us keep everyone involved in the planning process. If you do not have copies of these forms, please let us know and we'll mail them to you ASAP. Our contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

In addition to getting our program and facilities up and running, we are focusing our energies on LITERACY programs and information. The Shared Reading Project is available to families across the state with children who are from birth to age 7-8. Contact us if you want to be involved. We have also invited an experienced teacher of the deaf, Heidi Givens, to write the LITERACY CORNER for the SFSC Newsletter each month. Feel free to send her any questions and comments.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have FAMILY LEARNING VACATION this year. We simply



**Family Learning Vacation**

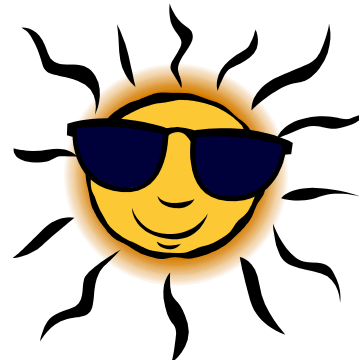
do not have time or staff to develop the SFSC, literacy programs, and host the Family Learning Vacation. We

know that families have enjoyed and benefited from this weekend event and we are very sorry to not be able to provide FLV this year. The good news is that we have received permission to carry-over funds specifically for **FLV-06**. As soon as we have the date (it will probably be June, 2006), we'll let you know.



## KDE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Each issue of the SFSC Newsletter will focus on a different area of the Kentucky Department of Education's Implementation Plan. This month, we are sharing information about Summer Enrichment Programs. Specifically, the related goal in the Implementation Plan states that in order "to enhance social and peer interaction and the expanded curriculum, KSD will offer summer experiences to students statewide on its campus. These experiences will include academic and literacy enrichment, socialization skills, self-advocacy, leadership skill development and sensory specific needs."



Needs/interests surveys for this program have been sent to families across the state and are currently being disseminated to teachers and interpreters in public school systems. The surveys request that the parents, student, and/or school staff member identify areas of needs/interests of each student with a hearing loss in Kentucky. Survey results will be tabulated and used to design and implement programs that will assist students in those areas. This will likely include a continuation of the summer school programs that have been offered in the past as well as to begin designing and offering programs to older students. A copy of this survey is included in this newsletter.

If you haven't already completed one for your child, please do so and send it to Ruth Sigler, %KSD, P.O. Box 27, Danville, KY 40423. You can also contact Ruth at [rsigler@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:rsigler@ksd.k12.ky.us) for more information about this program.



## SUMMER CAMPS and PROGRAMS in KENTUCKY

### CAMP CRECENDO

July 2-9. This is the Kentucky Lions Summer Camp for deaf or hard of hearing children. Campers must be ages 8-15 and live in state. Located in Lebanon Junction. Contact: CECIL WARNER at 502-223-8514 or [cwarner@mis.net](mailto:cwarner@mis.net)

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## Summer Camps/Programs (in State) continued

### KSD's SUMMER ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Kentucky School for the Deaf will host its annual ACADEMIC Summer School for Elementary and Middle School students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, June 5-17, 2005. The theme is "Discovery, Experience, Adventure, Fun in the World of Literacy." This is open to students from KSD and from the public schools. The application deadline is April 8<sup>th</sup>. Enrollment is limited and there is no fee (but students are responsible for their own spending money).

Contact NANCY MANN for more information at 859-239-7017, ext. 2223 or nmann@ksd.k12.ky.us.

### LEXINGTON HEARING and SPEECH CENTER

LHSC will offer a summer preschool program for children ages 3-5 years old. The dates have not been finalized but they typically have two sessions, two-weeks each. The primary focus is on maintaining speech and language skills to avoid regression. Children in this program get a lot of language stimulation and have fun at the same time.

Call CAROL HUSTEDDE in early April for more information (859-268-4545). Tuition is \$150. per session.



## SUMMER CAMPS and PROGRAMS (Out of State)

### BILL RICE RANCH

Located outside of Nashville, Tennessee, this camp has offered Christian camping for the deaf for many years. They have 5 sessions, one-week each for boys and girls ages 9-19, starting in the middle of June. They also have a one-week camp for the whole family, the end of July. Registration fees vary and some scholarships are available. Contact [www.billricerance.org](http://www.billricerance.org) or call 615-893-2767 for more information.

### AUSTIN GREEN MOUNTAIN LIONS CAMP

This is a program in Vermont for deaf and hard of hearing children and their SIBLINGS. There will

be a one-week camp for ages 6-9 (July 31-Aug.5) and two-week camps for ages 10-13 (July 17-29) and for ages 14-18 (July 3-15). Registration fees vary. Contact TAMI TROWELL at 802-258-9502 or [tami@austine.pvt.k12.vt.us](mailto:tami@austine.pvt.k12.vt.us)

### CAMP LAKODIA

Located in Madison, South Dakota, they have 3 programs this summer: National Leadership camp, Literacy Camp, and Basketball Camp. Programs are planned for deaf, hard of hearing, and CODA kids between 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Contact DEB SKJEVELAND for more information at [debskjeveland@c-s-d.org](mailto:debskjeveland@c-s-d.org)

### SPACE CAMP

Space Camp/Aviation Challenge for the deaf and hard of hearing, ages 9-18, will be held May 1-6 in Huntsville, Alabama. Contact AMY NEWLAND at [amn01wpd@wpsd.org](mailto:amn01wpd@wpsd.org) for more information.

### GALLAUDET SPORTS CAMP

Gallaudet University in Washington, DC is hosting two sessions this summer: a boys/girls basketball camp (June 20-25); and girls volleyball, boys baseball, and wrestling camp (June 26-July 1). The price is \$375 per session (\$700 for both sessions) for boys and girls ages 13-18 (boys basketball is for 10-18 year olds). Contact DYAN KOVACS at [Dyan.Kovacs@Gallaudet.edu](mailto:Dyan.Kovacs@Gallaudet.edu) for more information.

### EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York is having two, one-week transition education events for youth who are entering their senior year of high school this fall. The dates are: July 16-21 and July 23-28. This program gives participants a hands-on experience in a variety of career areas that will help them make better decisions about life after high school. The cost is \$650. Contact JEAN BONDI-WOLCOTT at 585-475-6705 or [JMB4646@rit.edu](mailto:JMB4646@rit.edu).

### CLARKE SCHOOL'S SUMMER ADVENTURE

This is a two-week auditory/oral program designed for students ages 9-12, July 10-22. Clarke School is in Northampton, Massachusetts. Space is limited... contact 413-584-3450 or email [info@clarkeschool.org](mailto:info@clarkeschool.org)


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## FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY ...

### American Society for Deaf Children National Conference

July 9-13 at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Pittsburgh, PA. Mission: to provide a time for families and professionals to share strategies, discover innovations, and form friendships to support deaf/hard of hearing children and enable them to reach their fullest potential. Programs and activities for the children and adults are planned. ASDC has some scholarships available to help conference participants with registration expenses. Contact [www.wpsd.org](http://www.wpsd.org) or call 1-800-624-3323 for more information

 There are more camps and summer programs around the state and around the country. Program/camp descriptions and contact info will be kept on file here in our office. Feel free to contact us to get copies of a specific camp or program that you are interested in



## AROUND THE STATE... WHAT'S HAPPENING

March 1 (every Tuesday night) – OWENSBORO; Family Sign Class; 5:00-6:30 at Country Heights Elementary School

March 5 – OWENSBORO; Family Bowling Day; 2:00-4:00 at Diamond Lanes South. Contact Linda Sullivan 270-771-4411 to register.

March 22 – DRAFFENVILLE; "Silent Dinner" Signing Group will meet at 6:00 at the Los Amigos restaurant. Contact Paula Humphreys to RSVP at [Humphreys@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:Humphreys@ksd.k12.ky.us)

April 9 – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Health Fair. This day-long event will be held at Cincinnati State and Technical and Community College (3520 Central Parkway). Heather Whitestone-Mccallum will present at 9:30. Contact Betty Roseberger at 513-584-5052 (voice) or 513-584-3785 (tty) or email [Rosenbbm@Healthall.com](mailto:Rosenbbm@Healthall.com).



## SCHOOLS GET WIRED FOR SOUND

*This article is from CBSNEWS.com; Feb. 23, 2005*

Foothills Elementary in Riverton, Utah, might look like your typical American school, but it sure doesn't sound like it, reports **CBS News Correspondent Bill Whitaker**.

You see, Foothills is wired with a state-of-the-art, infrared sound system. It's transmitted from this necklace and bathes the classroom in the teacher's voice. Now, every seat is a front-row seat.

"It makes an amazing difference. I can honestly say I've never had to raise my voice to the kids," said teacher Jennifer Hebertson.

"So, has it changed things for the students as well?" Whitaker asked. "You know, I think they are better behaved. And they are more likely to ask questions and more likely to participate," she replied.

It seems schools have tried everything to improve: smaller classes, more teachers, more homework, more computers. One solution was right under their noses — well ears actually.

Even kids with normal hearing can miss as much as a third of what teachers say. And remember those troublemakers in the back row? It seems they just may not have been hearing ... ditto some kids labeled with ADHD and other learning disabilities. Some wired schools report test scores are up across the board.

"Do you see a downside to this at all?" Whitaker asked school Superintendent Barry Newbold. "The downside for me is I can't get it in the classrooms fast enough," he answered.

Superintendent Newbold says the cost of one computer can wire a classroom. He's outfitting every school in his Utah district.

Ohio has mandated it for every school in the state. So what's the big deal? Listen. Ms. Hebertson, with the sound system off... "One, amendment; two, bill of rights; three, due process." Now, turning it on, she says much louder, "The last three you're going to define are human rights, jury and patriotism."

"Do you remember the classrooms before the sound systems went in?" Whitaker asked. Replied one student, "Uh huh. It was really hard to hear, and I had to keep raising my hand, 'What did you say?'" "And now, I can just hear perfectly."

It's the brainchild of Claudia Anderson of Audio Enhancement. "Johnny was told to write an invitation, and he heard vacation. That's really close. But he went back and did write about his vacation. All of a sudden he was scolded," said Anderson.

She started out trying to help her two almost totally deaf sons. She wired their cribs and strollers to pump in sound. She studied engineering, started this company, and ended up helping lots of children. It seems like such a simple idea. "People didn't realize that the students were not hearing well. They get tagged as not able to learn and they're not able to hear," Anderson said.

"It does seem like a no-brainer, but I'm so glad to have it," said Ms. Hebertson. It seems hearing is believing.



# KSD Happenings

February 2005

Kentucky School for the Deaf

## Walker Hall News...

On Feb. 2nd Walker Hall Student Council Sponsored a Pajama Day. The Students wore pajamas all day. They enjoyed watching movies, playing games, eating snacks and reading RIF books.

**\*\* PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDER \*\*** A special Reading EVENT Sunday Feb. 27th, 5:30-7:00pm, Mrs. Jennie Leith will be hosting a SPECIAL READING SESSION along with several classroom teachers. The teachers will be demonstrating various reading techniques and strategies that can help parents at home. Practical tips for improving vocabulary and reading comprehension will be shared for all Walker Halls Students skills levels. WE encourage all parents to attend!!!!!!

## Walker Hall \*\*Mini- Society\*\* UK TOWN ---Now Open for Business--

The students have established businesses in which they work and "earn money", while focusing on economic vocabulary and practical math skills. The students earn money daily and use their money to purchase materials for their businesses. Market days provide the students with the opportunity to buy and sell goods. The kids love spending their money. Special events take place in the community such as special auctions and town hall meetings with their own Mayor!

FEB.25<sup>th</sup> --- Students will be attending a special performance titled, "Cookin" at Centre College. This is similar to "Stomp", using different materials and movements...this is a visual treat for the students.

IN EARLY MARCH \*\*\* **Kentucky Down Under**\*\*\*\*\* will be doing a presentation at the KSD campus. This will provide the students with a unique introduction to Australia's History, Culture and Animals through the use of "traveling trunks", which bring a variety of activities and visual aides for all grades.

## Middle School News...

The Middle School Student Council Presents..... Their 2nd Annual Used Book and Bake Sale. On March 2nd (to coincide with Dr. Suess' Birthday), the Middle School will have their sale. This year all proceeds will go to the Tsunami Relief Effort. Last year teddy bears were donated to the EMRMC's. March 2nd is also Read Across America Day! So, get those used books and those cookie recipes ready. They will be accepting DONATIONS SOON.

**KSD HAPPENINGS**

**Page 2**

**WHO'S NEW AT KSD...**

You will see a new face in the Personnel/Payroll office at KSD. Please welcome Mrs. Nancy Coogan, who is an Administrative Assistant Specialist Level III. She will be in training for a while from Frankfort, but she will be the person keying in hours for paychecks and answering questions related to insurance and leave time, when she understands our systems. She will be located in Brady Hall, and will be assisting Mr. Larry Conner in particular. She is a licensed interpreter and worked for four years in the Fayette Co. Public Schools at the Middle and High School levels, and she plans to get full certification as an Interpreter with the new NIC testing. She is very excited and happy to be at KSD where she feels she can use her talents both as a professional administrator and as an interpreter. She lives with her husband and three girls in Wilmore, but hopes to move to this side of the river after graduating her youngest child from West Jessamine High School this May, and setting up a wedding for a daughter in August. Please make her feel welcomed to the KSD family.

### University of Louisville Football Players Speak at KSD...

On Feb. 11th, KSD students went to Kerr Hall. They were privileged to have Stephen LaFors and Bobby Leffew, both players on the University of Louisville Kentucky Football team as motivational speakers. Stephen and Bobby shared their life experiences with an emphasis on hard work and the importance of finishing school. Stephen's parents are deaf. He also shared a little about his life in the deaf community.

### KSD HOMECOMING 2005...

KSD basketball homecoming was February 12<sup>th</sup>. It was a time for sharing old and making new friendships...

The Homecoming scores are as follows:

Girls	ENCSD-32	KSD-34	Boys	KSD-64	ENCSD-74
	NCSD-28	KSD-44		KSD-61	ENCSD-71

Awards to players:

Girls: Best Defensive- Victoria Thompson	Boys: Best Defensive- Zack Carson
Best Offensive- Maribel Rodriquez	Best Offensive- Brad Davis
Most Valuable Player- Jennifer Harris	Most Valuable Player- Travis Zornoza
Most Spirited Cheerleader- Lorita Hall	



The Statewide Family Support Center greatly appreciates **DANA ROUSE** volunteering to collect KSD information each month. We will insert this page into the Newsletter for all KSD families. Send Dana any articles, events, and other information by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

# STATEWIDE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER NEWSLETTER – March 2005



*Serving Kentucky's Families With  
Children who are Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing*

**PO Box 27  
Danville, KY 40423**

The Statewide Family Support Center is located in Lee Hall on the campus of the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville. Families from across the state are welcome to call, visit, or email us with questions.

**Cathy Howle**

502-897-1583 ext. 108 (v)

[chowle@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:chowle@ksd.k12.ky.us)

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